REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 12-13 are new. Support for these recitations can be found in original claim 7.

Claims 7-11 have been allowed.

Claims 2-4 have been indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 5, and 6 stand rejected as obvious over applicant's Prior Art Figure 3 (the second prior art of Figure 2?) in view of JP 11-326857 (JP'857).

JP '857 paragraphs 0022, 0025, and 0049-0051 are now offered as disclosing performing alignment between the first and second substrates ***at the same time*** pressing the two substrates. Applicant does not see this disclosure.

The JP '857 disclosure of paragraphs 0022-0025 refers to the ***pressurizing means 68 (an exhausting means)*** connected with a vacuum pump.

It is the disclosure of paragraphs 0049-0051 which the Official Action indicates "the step of performing an alignment between said first and second substrates while pressing said second substrate on a surface of said first substrate." The alignment which the Official Action refers to is "the spacing between both substrates 12 and 13 being shortened." See below paragraphs 0049-0051 (machine translation).

[0049] Namely, as pad 68a of the pressurization means 68 is expanded to drawing 9 (c) which shows the left side view of the top view shown in drawing 9 (b) which looked at the direction of an arrow head, and a top view, respectively and was shown from X-X-ray of the sectional view of drawing 9 (a), and a sectional view It is constituted so that the space between the top face of the adsorption plate 63 in which two substrates 12 and 13 were laid, and the top face of the top substrate 12, and the periphery section of two substrates 12 and 13 may be covered. Therefore, the space between the top faces of the adsorption plate 63 and the top faces of the top substrate 13 which were blocked by pad 68a is connected to the vacuum pump which is not illustrated through pumping pipe 68b, i.e., an exhaust air means.

[0050] Where the space between the top face of the adsorption plate 63 and the top face of the top substrate 12 is sealed, the opposite location of the liquid crystal inlet 17a prepared in the sealing compound 17 is carried out at opening of pumping pipe 68b. Therefore, since the space between the vertical substrate 12 and 13 is exhausted through liquid crystal inlet 17a and the space between vertical both the substrates 12 and 13 is made to decompress, both the substrates 12 and 13 function as receiving external atmospheric pressure relatively, and a pressure welding being pressurized and carried out. Thereby, spacing between both the substrates 12 and 13 is shortened further.

[0051] Thus, location amendment was performed based on the recognition and location detection of the relative position of substrates 12 and 13 by the location recognition means 67, and since it was compressed by the pressurization means 68 after the relative position had been in agreement, the precision of less than **1 micrometer was securable to spacing of 5 micrometers between both the substrates 12 and 13 (gap).

Thus, there is no disclosure of alignment between the first and second substrates comprising sliding the first substrate in two axial directions parallel to the surface of the first substrate. Accordingly, the JP '857 does not teach or suggest the missing features of the invention as recited by claim 1.

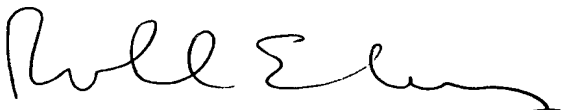
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 and its dependent claims are respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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